

REMARKS

Claims 23-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 29-33 are cancelled.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 23-28 are allowed. As discussed above, claims 29-33 are cancelled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on August 30, 2000. Applicants have not yet received from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered Japanese Patent No. 62-245509, dated October 1987. As noted on the IDS, the reference was submitted to the Office in parent Application No. 09/103,394, filed June 24, 1998. As such, a copy of this reference was not attached with the IDS for the present application.

However, for the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of the Form PTO-1449 for the parent application, initialed to acknowledge that the document mentioned above was considered in the parent application is attached. Furthermore, for the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of Form PTO-1449 filed in the present application is also attached.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review Form PTO-1449, filed on August 30, 2000, and initial the Form PTO-1449 to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered Japanese Patent No. 62-245509.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JLC/ccs

Attachments:

Form PTO-1449 for Application No. 09/103,394 Acknowledged January 2000
Form PTO-1449 for Application No. 09/650,690 Filed August 30, 2002

Date: March 12, 2004

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

Form PTO-1449
(REV. 8-83)

US Dept. of Commerce
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY DOCKET NO.
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APPLICATION NO.
Rule 53(b) Divisional of
U.S. Patent Appln.
09/103,394

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

MAR 12 2004

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	4,589,042	5/86	Anderson et al.		
	5,828,533	10/98	Ohashi et al.		
	5,831,801	11/98	Shouji et al.		
	5,872,693	2/99	Yoda et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	62-245509	10/87	Japan		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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MAR 16 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.